

THE HEADLIGHT.

—BY THE—
SOUTHWESTERN PUBLISHING CO.

EDMUND G. ROSS, Editor.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 30, 1890.

DEMOCRATIC CONVENTION

REAPPORTIONMENT OF TERRITORY.
SPECIAL CONVENTION.
In accordance with a resolution of the central committee, a Democratic territorial convention is hereby called, to be held in Silver City, New Mexico, on Wednesday, September 3, 1890, for the purpose of reapportioning a majority of the delegates to the House of Representatives of the next Congress, to be elected at the next November election.

The several counties of the territory are entitled to the following number of delegates:
Bernalillo..... 4
Cibola..... 3
Concho..... 3
Grant..... 3
Hidalgo..... 3
Kinney..... 3
Lincoln..... 3
Pecos..... 3
Sandoval..... 3
Santa Fe..... 3
Teller..... 3
Valencia..... 3
Yuma..... 3
Total..... 42

CHAS. H. UNDERHILL, Chairman.
Felix Martinez, Secretary.

THE CONVENTION.

The Convention that meets in Silver City on Wednesday next will in some respects be the most important political gathering that has taken place in the Territory in many years. The reckless administration of Territorial affairs by the party in power has placed in the hands of that convention political issues that it will be almost criminal to fail to use, and put upon the Democratic party a responsibility that it cannot afford to disregard. It must boldly grapple and wield the weapons thus placed in its hands, and fearlessly accept and discharge the responsibility that the conditions of the time and the coming campaign have devolved upon it.

THE CONVENTION.

The action of the last three successive Legislatures has been to the last degree revolutionary and subversive of good government and the orderly administration of public affairs, and there is now no hope of a correction of this untoward state of things but in the election of a Democratic majority of the next.

Unfortunately the Democrats are at a disadvantage in that election through the unequal partisan apportionment originally made by a Republican governor, and made still worse by the last Legislature, and it will require active, determined, united and intelligent work to overcome it.

Much will depend upon this convention in the procurement of that end, and the HEADLIGHT will take the liberty of suggesting that its platform be devoted mainly to Territorial affairs—to the exposure of the vicious nature of the legislation that has been had and the vicious methods that have characterized the rule of the governing faction.

Mr. Joseph will of course be nominated and triumphantly elected, as he deserves to be. There is no power in the Territory that can defeat him. But it will require a determined struggle to secure the Legislature, and that we must, or rest indefinitely under the disgrace and the tyranny of laws enacted by men long unwhipped of justice and in the spirit of personal greed and partisan malice—men who, if justice had her due, would long since have lodged in a felon's cell or dangled at the hangman's noose.

It is the rule of this element that has so long discouraged immigration and investment, and retarded the development of the varied and wonderful resources of New Mexico. It is to the end that this bad element may be at once and forever relegated to the rear and to obscurity, that the respectable people of the Territory now turn to the Democratic party and hope for final relief through the election of a Democratic Legislature.

We have faith that the Convention will comprehend and realize the magnitude and gravity of the issue that confronts it and all the best interests of the Territory, and that its action will not be found disappointing or wanting in full fruition of the hopes the people and its friends.

The Senate on Tuesday adopted the resolution to take the vote on the tariff bill on Sept. 8th.

A JUST AND TIMELY DEMAND

There has for some weeks been in circulation throughout the Territory, petitions to Congress for the repeal of the act of Oct. 2d, 1888, withdrawing from entry all the so-called arid lands in the west.

It is to be hoped that there will be no lack of activity or earnestness in the procurement of signatures to this petition. The act mentioned covers practically the entire Territory. It is the most mischievous and unfortunate piece of legislation, to the west and especially to New Mexico, that ever passed Congress. The intent, on the part of those who voted for it, was undoubtedly good, and under the impression that the measure was needed to render these arid lands fit for future settlement and cultivation, but it was a mistake that has already cost the Government several millions of dollars, and the people of the west very serious inconvenience and loss.

Large numbers of people have since the passage of that act fled upon homesteads, pre-emptions, etc., on the lands covered by this act, but are by it denied the privilege of perfecting their filings—in fact have obtained no rights in the lands they occupy by reason of such filings or any improvements they have put upon them. The repeal of that act would at once relieve these people, and enable them to prove up and obtain title to their homes.

And not only that, but it would re-open to settlement very large areas in New Mexico and throughout the Rocky mountain region now closed. Immigration to the Rocky Mountain States has very largely diminished in the last two years, and it is not unreasonable to suppose that it has been in consequence of that act, nor can we hope for its resumption till this bar to settlement is removed.

The scheme upon which this withdrawal of lands was based—the ascertainment by topographic surveys of suitable locations for reservoirs as the basis of a contemplated system of irrigation, is purely and utterly chimerical, impossible of realization, and constitutes no part of the proper functions of the General Government, even if it were possible.

Irrigation in the west is purely a local economic problem which the people must solve for themselves in their local, individual capacity, and they are equal to the task. While the Government has been spending millions of the public funds in the pursuit of an ignis fatuus, the people of the west have been industriously and successfully pushing irrigation enterprises, great and small, in all parts of the Territory, even on the very lands withdrawn from settlement by the act of Congress now asked to be repealed.

This fact constitutes an emphatic commentary on and proof of the inutility of that act, and no more forceful argument could be added in support of the request for its repeal.

HOW THEY CORRECTED IT.

One of the avowed purposes for which the defunct Constitutional Convention was called into extra session, was to correct the apportionment for members of the State Legislature. The convention promptly proceeded to make the correction by adding one member to the House of Representatives, from the old county of Lincoln, taking particular care that he should be a Republican.

They did not think it worth while to correct the apportionment wherein it authorizes the Republican county of Bernalillo to elect a Republican state senator for the Democratic county of San Juan, not that feature of the apportionment that authorizes the Republican counties of Valencia and Socorro to elect a Republican state senator for the Democratic County of Lincoln. Oh, no! That was not what they were there for. If they could not so juggle the apportionment as to make sure of a Republican Legislature, in the interest of some half dozen Republican candidates for the U. S. Senate, what's the use of being a state?

The Senate on Wednesday last agreed to the clause in the House tariff bill putting a prohibitory duty of one and a half cents a pound on all lead contained in imported silver-lead ores, and as one of the first fruits of the act, the El Paso smelting people are now making arrangements to move their works across the line into Mexico.

THE TROUBLES OF THE TWO CONSTITUTIONS

Those of the Republican papers of the Territory who persistently asseverated the excellence of the pending Constitution in all respects, are much embarrassed by the action of the late "adjourned session" of the Constitutional Convention.

For instance, they insisted that the revenue authorized for the maintenance of schools was ample—that the Constitution was "all right on the school question," and that the Democrats lied when they said it wasn't.

But now comes the "adjourned session" and admits the truth of the criticisms of the opponents of the Constitution, and radically changes the entire revenue clause of the school provision, vastly widening its scope—in fact have overdone it, and gone beyond what he opponents asked for, and beyond the requirements of reason and safety.

It is more than apparent that these fellows are new hands at Constitution making and have placed their thick-and-thin party preps at a serious disadvantage.

BETTER READ UP.

It is not a little singular how some people, in their anxiety to make a little partisan capital, can deliberately state historical untruths. A late number of the Las Vegas Opie says:

In the last Congress the Democrats, having control of the house, defeated a much needed revision of the tariff, and about that party again get control by this year's congressional elections, the wheels of legislation will again be clogged.

If the Opie will take the trouble to read up the history of the last Congress, and it will not have to read much, either, it will find that it was the Democrats of the House that passed a bill for the revision of the tariff, in the interest of all branches of the labor and business, and general economies of the country, and that it was the Republican senate that defeated that bill.

As for "clogging the wheels of legislation," etc., the Republicans who now have undisputed control of the Presidency, the Supreme Court, the Senate, and the House of Representatives, have quite effectually forestalled the Democrats and everybody else in that line, and bankrupted the Treasury besides.

The committees on territories in the senate and house of representatives at Washington say, that they will admit New Mexico under its present constitution as they are perfectly satisfied with it, and that they could not change or improve a single paragraph or sentence in the whole constitution. [New Mexican.]

The "committees on Territories in the Senate and House of Representatives at Washington" have never said any such thing, and do not intend to do any such thing. If by such lying as this the New Mexican and those who follow its lead expect to create votes for their constitution, they will be disappointed.

THE ARID LAND WITHDRAWALS.

The following is the text of the compromise agreed upon by the House and Senate conference committees on the arid land withdrawals for storage and irrigation. It has been agreed to by the Senate, and if not yet by the House, very likely will be in a few days.

And so much of the act of October 2, 1888, entitled "An act making appropriations for sundry civil expenses of the government for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1889, and for other purposes," as provides for the withdrawal of the public lands from entry, occupation and settlement, is hereby revised, and all entries made or claims initiated in good faith and valid but for said act shall be recognized and may be perfected in the same manner as if said law had not been enacted, except that no entry or claim initiated or selected, which shall remain unperfected and reserved from entry or settlement as provided by said act until otherwise provided by law, and reservoir sites hereafter located or selected on public lands shall in like manner be reserved from the date of the location or selection thereof. No person who shall after the passage of this act enter upon any of the public lands with a view to occupation, entry or settlement under any of the laws shall be permitted to acquire title to more than 80 acres in the aggregate under all of said laws, but this limitation shall not operate to curtail the right of any person who has heretofore made entry or settlement on the public lands of whose occupation, entry or settlement is validated by this act. Provided, that in all patents for land hereafter taken up under any of the laws of the United States or on entries or claims validated by this act west of the one hundredth meridian, it shall be expressed that there is reserved from the land in said patent described a right-of-way thereon for ditches or canals constructed by the authority of the United States.

Everything tends to show that the country is thoroughly disgusted with the course of this Congress. The two principal Radical measures, the Force bill and the McKinley Embargo bill—are alike insulting to public decency and intelligence. Starting out to sweep down against public sentiment with the impetuosity of a charge of cavalry, the Radicals have fallen back in confusion. One of these two principal measures is almost dead, and they do not themselves know if they would not be better off without the other.

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THE ELECTION LAW.

The following are all the material provisions of the Election law passed by the last Legislature and now in force:

SECTION 1. That hereafter it shall be lawful for any political convention held in this territory or any county thereof for the purpose of nominating candidates to be voted for at any election held in this territory or any county thereof, to adopt by resolution some mark or designating device to be printed on the face of and at the head of the ticket or ballot, containing the names of the candidates for office nominated by such convention, and when such mark or designating device shall have been adopted by any such convention, and the secretary thereof, shall have been filed with the prolate clerk of the county in which such convention was held, it shall be unlawful for any other political convention, person or persons in such county, to adopt or use any mark or designating device for election purposes, or to cause the same to be placed or printed on any ticket or ballot to be voted at such election, without having printed in such ticket or ballot all of the names of the candidates nominated by the political convention adopting such mark or designating device, and it shall be unlawful for any person or persons whatsoever, after the adoption and filing of such mark or designating device, to print or cause to be printed, after, distributed or circulated, any ticket or ballot having thereon such mark or designating device with any name printed thereon other than the name or names of the candidate or candidates nominated by the political convention adopting such mark or designating device, provided, that nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit any person from erasing or changing in writing any name on any such ticket or ballot voted by such person, and further provided, that this act shall not be so construed as to prevent any executive committee of any political party holding such convention, from having printed on any ticket or ballot containing such mark or designating device the name or names of any candidate selected by such committee by authority of such convention to fill any vacancy caused by the death, declination or retirement of any candidate nominated by such convention.

SEC. 2. That hereafter all tickets or ballots used at any general election held in this territory, shall be printed on plain white paper, three inches in width and eight inches in length or within one quarter of an inch of that size. No such ticket or ballot shall have any mark or designating device on the back so that its character may be known when folded. If such ticket shall have upon its face the mark or designating device provided by the first section of this act, such mark or device shall be printed at the head of the ticket or ballot, then shall be printed in large black letters the character of such ticket or ballot, designating the political party or the particular question it is intended for, then shall follow the name or names of the candidate or candidates, and the office or offices for which they are candidates, or the question to be voted on, and it shall be unlawful for any person to print or cause to be printed, to circulate or distribute or cause to be circulated or distributed, or to have in his possession with intent to use the same at or prior to any election authorized by law, any ballot or ticket upon which are printed any name or names of any person other than the name or names of the regular nominees of any one political party, which shall in convention or otherwise nominate candidates for the offices to be filled at any general election; provided, that nothing herein shall be construed to prevent any person from printing any candidate or candidates on any such ticket being erased on any ballot or ticket and any other name or names being substituted in writing therefor, by or at the personal request of the person voting such ballot or ticket.

And it shall be unlawful for any person or persons to print or cause to be printed any ballot or ticket with any false designation or having any false heading printed thereon, or any other ballot or ticket calculated or intended to deceive or mislead any voter.

SEC. 3. That it shall be unlawful for any person who is not a qualified elector to vote, or to offer to vote at any election held in this territory, or to register or offer to register as a voter, and it shall be unlawful for any person to register or offer to register or to vote or offer to vote in the name of another person, and it shall be unlawful for any person to register his name as a voter or to cause or procure his name to be registered in any other election precinct than that in which such person resides or will in good faith have resided thereat the period of time prior to the day of the next ensuing election; and it shall also be unlawful for any person to solicit, procure, aid, abet, induce or attempt to procure or induce any person who is not duly qualified, to register as a voter, or to vote at any election held in this territory.

SEC. 4. It shall be unlawful for any person after the passage of this act, at or prior to any election authorized by the laws of this territory, to influence or attempt to influence any voter to vote for or against any candidate for office, or any question or person, or to refrain from

voting at any such election, by the offer of any money, property, article or thing of value, or by the offer of employment or by any menace or threat to discharge from employment, or by any threat of violence to any such voter, or by any threat or menace to sue any such voter or any other person or by any promise to refrain or abstain from suing such voter or any other person, or to influence or attempt to influence any voter to cast his vote in any particular way by means of any bribe, reward or promise of reward, or for any voter to take or receive any bribe, compensation, money, article or thing as an inducement to vote for any person, or question, or to refrain from voting for any person or to abstain, interfere with or impede any qualified voter from registering or voting at any such election, or to obstruct or violently, or without his consent take from any such voter any ballot or ticket for the purpose of changing the same, or to examine the same, or to interfere with the easy access of any voter to the polls for the purpose of voting at any such election; or to mislead or deceive any voter by furnishing him with a ticket or ballot under the pretense that such ticket or ballot contains names other than those printed or written thereon; or to deceive or defraud any voter by using any such ticket or ballot to vote for a person, thing or question other than such voter desired or intended to vote for.

SEC. 5. No person or persons other than the judges and clerks of election, and the person voting and one person to act as challenger for each political party, or for and against any question voted for, shall be permitted to approach nearer than ten yards of any polling place during any election held under the laws of this territory; and no voter shall be permitted to remain at the polling place a longer period of time than is necessary for him to deposit his vote, and after voting he shall immediately retire to a distance of at least ten yards from such polling place, and it shall be unlawful for any person or persons after any voter has come within the distance of ten yards of any polling place for the purpose of voting to in any manner interfere with or obstruct such voter, or to examine or to attempt to examine the ballot or ticket of such voter, or to ask or solicit such voter to permit such person to examine such ticket or ballot; or to ask any such voter for what party or person or what ticket or ballot he was about to vote, or to attempt to persuade any such voter to change or alter such ticket or ballot.

SEC. 6. Any judge or clerk of any election who shall willfully mislead or mislead or fail to call or read the name of any person whose name is voted on any ballot or ticket, or willfully refuse upon any tally list a greater or less number of votes for any person than such person actually received with the intent to change the result of such election or to impair or improve the chances of election of any candidate, or knowingly permit any illegal voting or fraud in any manner, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and on conviction, shall be punished.

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